

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 4, 2008

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Madam Secretary:

We write to you to express our grave concerns regarding the recent outbreak of political violence in Pakistan ahead of the nation's Parliamentary Elections.

We are particularly concerned with what appears to be an inability for all opposition candidates to obtain adequate security as they campaign throughout Pakistan. As we understand it, the Musharraf government is not providing adequately robust security to members of any opposition party ahead of the February 18 elections, despite repeated attempts to obtain such protection from the Pakistani Government.

You no doubt share our strong belief that democracy and rule of law can only take hold in Pakistan if civil society and political opposition are allowed to operate freely, openly and without fear for their safety. In light of recent events in Pakistan, we strongly urge you to do everything in your power to ensure Musharraf government's takes all necessary steps to provide adequate security for all opposition party members.

We thank you for your prompt attention to this serious matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

